

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LISBON 03646 031424Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 H-03

OMB-01 NIC-01 CU-04 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 001882

R 031210Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8561

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3646

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO

SUBJ: OPPOSITION LIMPS INTO CAMPAIGN ARENA

REF: LISBON 3459

SUMMARY: FIELDING SLATES IN ONLY HALF OF PORTUGAL'S METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS AND IN NONE OVERSEAS, DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL COMMISSION (CDE) HAS OPENED ITS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION CAMPAIGN. CDE SEEKS TO MAKE SOME POLITICAL HAY IN MONTH BEFORE ELECTION, BUT GOP'S RECENT DECREE LAW (LISBON 3459) AND NEW ELECTION REGULATIONS HAVE REDUCED FURTHER ALREADY LIMITED SCOPE FOR OPPOSITION ACTIVITY. POLICE HAVE MOVED EFFICIENTLY TO KEEP OPPOSITION NOISES IN LOW DECIBELS. END SUMMARY

1. AT CLOSE OF PERIOD FOR PRESENTING CANDIDACIES FOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 03646 031424Z

FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION, CDE (THE ONLY

OPPOSITION GROUP PRESENTING CANDIDATES) HAD NAMED 10 SLATES, FOR A TOTAL OF 68 CANDIDATES, COVERING DISTRICTS OF AVEIRO (7 SEATS), CASTELO BRANCO (4), COIMBRA (6), EVORA (4), LEIRIA (6), LISBON (14), OPORTO (12), SANTAREM (6), SETUBAL (6) AND PONTA DELGADA (3). LISTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED, WITH SOME LAST MINUTE CHANGES, FOR ALL THESE DISTRICTS EXCEPT PONTA DELGADA. AMCON PONTA DELGADA REPORTS CIVIL GOVERNOR HAS POSTED NOTICE DECLARING LIST INVALID BECAUSE ONE CANDIDATE FAILED TO FILE CERTIFICATE ACCEPTING NOMINATION. IF THIS DECISION HOLDS, CDE WILL CONTEST ONLY 65 OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S 150 SEATS.

2. CDE LISTS ARE COMPOSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OF POLITICAL UNKNOWNNS, INCLUDING 19 WORKERS AND 9 STUDENTS. SEVEN CDE CANDIDATES ARE WOMEN.

3. NINE OPPOSITIONISTS WERE ARRESTED EVENING OF SEPT. 29 WHEN CAUGHT PUTTING UP POSTERS IN LISBON. THEY WERE LATER RELEASED, BUT POLICE REMOVED THEIR POSTERS, EVEN THOUGH WALLS IN LISBON HAVE BEEN PLASTERED WITH NEW GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA POSTERS FOR LAST FEW WEEKS.

4. POLICE CLOSED STUDENT CAFETERIA AT LISBON UNIVERSITY'S MAIN CAMPUS OCTOBER 1, IN ORDER TERMINATE INTENSE OPPOSITIONIST ACTIVITY THERE. CDE HAD SET UP LARGE PROPAGANDA DISTRIBUTION CENTER IN CAFETERIA AND CDE CANDIDATES HAD ADDRESSED STUDENTS THERE ON VIRTUAL NON-STOP BASIS FOR LAST FEW WEEKS.

5. LISBON CANDIDATES FORMALLY OPENED THEIR CAMPAIGN OCTOBER 1 WITH MEETING IN THEATER AT SINTRA. SPEAKERS COMPLAINED THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO RENT ADEQUATE SPACE IN LISBON (PRESS SOURCE SAYS INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS PASSED WORK TO HOTEL AND THEATER PROPRIETORS THAT THEY RISK TROUBLE IF THEY LET CDE RENT FACILITIES). AT SINTRA MEETING, CANDIDATES COMPLAINED BITTERLY THAT NEW DECREE LAW PREVENTED THEM FROM CALLING FOR ABSTENTION (A BACK-HANDED WAY OF DOING SO) AND RAILED AT THE NEW REGULATION PROHIBITING NON-CANDIDATES FROM ADDRESSING MEETINGS. (SOME NON-CANDIDATE OPPOSITIONIST STARS, INCLUDING PEREIRA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LISBON 03646 031424Z

DE MOURA, SAT SILENT ON THE DAIS.) WHEN ONE CANDIDATE CRITICIZED GOP'S AFRICAN POLICY, POLICE INFORMED CHAIRMAN THAT DISCUSSION OF OVERSEAS PROBLEM WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. CHAIRMAN THEREUPON ENDED MEETING TO ACCOMPANYING CATCALLS.

6. COMMENT: FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO RENT HALLS AND PROHIBITED FROM HOLDING OUTDOOR RALLIES, OPPOSITION WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO MOUNT ANY KIND OF CAMPAIGN UNLESS

RULES ARE EASED.
POST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION LAW, POLITICAL PARTIES, OPPOSITION PARTIES, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LISBON03646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731054/aaaabnoq.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LISBON 3459
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION LIMPS INTO CAMPAIGN ARENA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005